

Art Unit: 2186

Attorney's Docket No.: A0989

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Thomas D. Hanan **Group:** 2186

Serial No.: 10/004,100 **Examiner:** Tuan Thai

For: ***DISK DRIVE AND METHOD FOR USING A MAILBOX FILE
ASSOCIATED WITH A DISK STORAGE MEDIUM FOR
PERFORMING A FUNCTION CHARACTERIZED BY CONTENTS
OF THE MAILBOX FILED.***

1. This action is responsive to Request for Continued Examination filed March 11, 2008. Claims 1-24 are allowed.

2. The Information Disclosure Statement filed 03/11/2008 have been reviewed and considered by the Examiner.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The prior arts of record do not teach nor suggest, *either alone or in combination, all the limitations of the amended claims of the current invention (claims 1 and 12).* Particularly, the prior arts of record do not teach nor

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suggest all the combined limitations in each amended claim separately. Hamlin ('281), Grawrock ('322) and Olson ('481) are the closest prior art references cited by the Examiner wherein Hamlin discloses translating a received read address to achieve a different boot-up process in response to a host request; particularly Hamlin reference does not teach a mailbox file execute under control of the disk drive, and a disk controller that references the mailbox file to perform a function characterized by contents of the mailbox file. Grawrock ('322) and Olson ('481) fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Hamlin reference wherein they do not teach or suggest a file stored on a disk storage medium of a disk drive which is executable under control of the disk drive to perform a function characterized by contents of the file. In light of the foregoing, claims 1 and 12 of the present application are found to be patentable over the prior arts.

Claims 2-11 and 13-24 further limit the allowable independent claims 1 and 12. These claims are therefore allowable for the same reason as set forth above.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the

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Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled

"Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan V. Thai whose telephone number is (571)-272-4187. The examiner can normally be reached on from 6:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mathew M. Kim can be reached on (571)-272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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TVT/April 12, 2008

/Tuan V. Thai/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2186